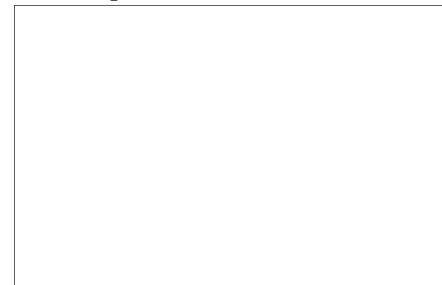




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Afghanistan Situation Report



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24 June 1986

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AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT

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KONDUZ OFFENSIVE WINDING DOWN

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The large-scale Soviet-Afghan combat operation in Konduz Province which began on 13 June appears to be ending.

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SOVIETS MAY BE USING PRECISION-GUIDED MUNITIONS

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three recent Soviet attacks suggest that precision-guided munitions may have been used.

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KABUL'S CENTRAL MILITARY HOSPITAL

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in a recent description of conditions at the Central Military Hospital in Kabul, said the hospital is now treating fewer war-wounded than during the early years of the Afghan conflict.

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IN BRIEF

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Afghan Army troops, with massive Soviet air support, overran one of the largest insurgent supply camps in Paktia Province. The loss probably is only a temporary setback for the insurgents, however.

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[Redacted]

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KONDUZ OPERATION WINDING DOWN [Redacted]

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A major Soviet-Afghan combat operation southeast of Konduz that now appears to be ending probably was an attempt to check attempts by Panjsher Valley commander Masood to expand operations in northern Afghanistan.

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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SOVIETS MAY BE USING PRECISION-GUIDED MUNITIONS [Redacted]

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The Soviet Air Force may be using precision-guided munitions (PGMs) against insurgent camps and antiaircraft positions, [Redacted]

[Redacted]

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Soviet SU-25 Frogfoot ground attack aircraft destroyed insurgent air defense sites in the Nazian Valley in mid-March, with only minimal damage to a nearby village. Insurgent ammunition bunkers [redacted]

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[redacted] were hit last November, while similar structures were not. Additionally, [redacted]

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[redacted] a Soviet artillery attack at Nazian was "very accurate" and that a "large box with a window on the top" was used to direct the fire. [redacted]

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Comment: AS-10 air-to-surface missiles have been available to Soviet fighter-bomber units at Shindand and Bagram airfields since at least autumn 1985, and the accuracy of the hits described suggests that these PGMs may have been used during the reported incidents. The "large box" probably is a laser designator, a fire-direction aid that probably has been used more frequently by Soviet artillery units in Afghanistan. [redacted]

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KABUL'S CENTRAL MILITARY HOSPITAL

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In a recent conversation with officials of the US Embassy in Kabul, a former Afghan Army doctor described medical treatment at the 400-bed Central Military Hospital in Kabul. He asserted that the facility's workload had increased dramatically between 1980 and 1985, but has dropped since then, possibly because of reduced combat casualties. He estimated that 20 percent of those wounded in combat die before reaching a medical facility, and that another 10 to 20 percent will die despite treatment. Most of the casualties treated at the hospital had bullet wounds, injuries from mine explosions, or had been in vehicle accidents. The physician said that prevalent diseases among Afghan troops include gastro-intestinal disorders, malaria, and tuberculosis. He noted that there is a special 50-bed ward for the exclusive use of wounded Soviet soldiers and accessible only by Soviet personnel. [redacted]

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Comment: The hospital, which caters to high-ranking Afghan civilian and military officials, is the main military hospital in Kabul. It has had chronic supply and personnel shortages, [redacted] Despite the section earmarked for Soviets, most Soviet casualties--particularly the seriously

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wounded--are evacuated to the USSR. In any case, the Soviet presence at the hospital probably will diminish because of the recent completion of a more secure and probably better-equipped facility at the Kabul Airport installation. [REDACTED]

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IN BRIEF

--G.M. Korniyenko, the First Deputy Chief of the International Department of the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee, arrived in Kabul on 23 June. Press reports indicate that Korniyenko and his delegation met with Afghan Communist Party chief Najibullah, Prime Minister Keshtmand, and President of the Revolutionary Council Karmal. This is the first known visit to Afghanistan by a member of the Soviet Central Committee Secretariat. [REDACTED]

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--The 19th plenum of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) is to begin on 26 June, according to the US Embassy in Kabul. Several high-level PDPA officials--mainly supporters of former Party Secretary-General Karmal--are rumored to be slated for removal during the plenum. [REDACTED]

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--Afghan resistance alliance spokesman Rabbani met with French Prime Minister Chirac and Foreign Minister Raimond on 23 June. The French evidently wavered about receiving the insurgent leader out of concern that the meeting would be seen by the Soviets as a provocative gesture just prior to President Mitterand's departure for a visit to Moscow next month. Rabbani's schedule for the remainder of the scheduled European tour--to the Federal Republic of Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom--are uncertain. [REDACTED]

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--Japan donated approximately \$17 million to relief programs for Afghan refugees in Pakistan in 1985 and also earmarked \$400,000 for Afghan refugees in Iran. At the same time, Japan is one of the Kabul regime's leading Western trade partners, accounting for almost 15 percent of Afghanistan's imports in 1984. [REDACTED]

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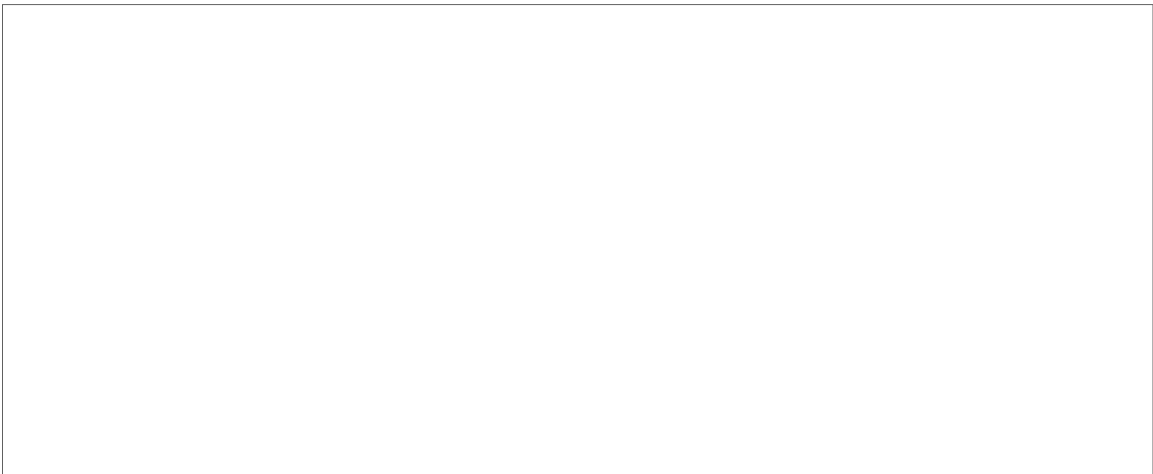
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PERSPECTIVE

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ZHAWAR KILLI: WINNERS AND LOSERS

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Afghan regime forces, backed by massive Soviet air support but accompanied by only a small contingent of Soviet Army units, overran what was probably the most important guerrilla base camp in Paktia Province in a three-week operation in April 1986. The insurgents probably were surprised at the scope and intensity of the attacks directed against their camp and are unlikely to risk installing similar large caches in Afghanistan in the future. 

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Mountain Hideaways

Zhawar Killi was a Hizbi-Islami (Khalis) base camp on a main infiltration route between Miram Shah in Pakistan and eastern Pakita Province. Located in a gully, it consisted of several large caves built into a 30-meter cliff. The caves were large enough to store trucks and captured tanks and armored personnel carriers. 

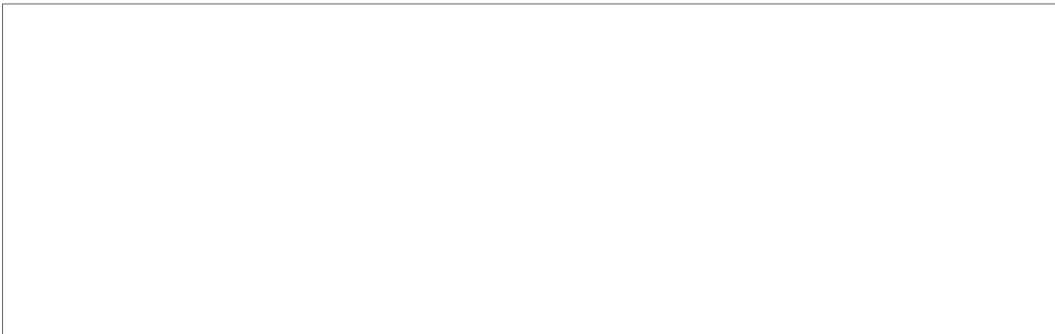
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The camp served as headquarters of Jallaludin Haqqani, the principal insurgent commander in the province, and contained accommodations for at least 300 insurgents, workshops, communications facilities, fuel and ammunition storage, repair facilities, a jail and a field hospital, . It had evidently been in existence for an extended period. Several other small insurgent camps and caches were also located in the hills nearby. 

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Tallying the Costs

The insurgents' losses of men and materiel were high.

[redacted] insurgent groups in Peshawar estimated that some 150 guerrillas had been killed or were missing and another 250 had been wounded. Their camps at Zhawar Killi and Moghol Gi were overrun and several cache sites with small arms, antitank and antipersonnel mines, ammunition, clothing, medical supplies, and food were confiscated by regime forces. [redacted]

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At the same time, the attacking forces probably also sustained substantial losses during the long and hard-

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fought campaign.

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No Repeats Likely

The regime's victory at Zhawar Killi was a temporary setback for the guerrillas. Although the campaign resulted in the destruction of a significant amount of materiel and a key support base and prevented the planned assault on Khowst, regime forces withdrew from the battle area within a few days of the end of the fighting, and insurgent forces soon reoccupied the area. Still, destruction of the camp--with the associated high casualties--probably has heightened the insurgents' sense of vulnerability. [REDACTED]

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The guerrillas probably will not attempt to rebuild the base camp at Zhawar Killi or to construct similar complexes elsewhere. Although the insurgents evidently have been trying to increase the amount of materiel stored inside Afghanistan for fear they may eventually lose their safehaven in Pakistan, they probably will not again risk caching as much in one place as they had at Zhawar. The guerrillas probably will also seek to improve their intelligence on Soviet and Afghan battle plans and improve their own security to avoid the costly surprise that they evidently experienced at Zhawar Killi. [REDACTED]

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The success of the Afghan regime forces at Zhawar Killi is one that they will not be able to duplicate easily or soon. Most Army units are seriously understrength, and the regime can ill afford more substantial losses. Moreover, even with the tremendous firepower that the Soviets used on the target area, the Afghan forces' advance on the camps proceeded haltingly. The impact of Zhawar Killi may be one reason that the Soviets have again taken the lead in two major offensives that have occurred since then. [REDACTED]

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